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# BEAUTIFUL NATIVE PLANTS

FROM THE  
HIGH PLAINS, BADLANDS  
AND BLACK HILLS

1941



## ERIGERON FLAGELLARIS IN COLONY

To one who loves a Daisy the Whiplash Daisy, so-called from its long runner-like branches that root at the tips to "increase production," makes instant appeal. Snowy white or sometimes pink tinted, with glowing centers, there is an abundance in June to delight any gardener and scattered blossoms all season. Flowers are an inch wide, leaves an inch or two long, grayish green.

In lean gravelly soil in full sun the growth is less dense than here pictured and the gregarious frequency of the blossoms even more effective. Many new plants are set each season in mat formation about the old crowns and control is had by clipping the runners at the proper time, or the excess of plants, if any, is easily dispensed with.

**CLAUDE A. BARR**

PRAIRIE GEM RANCH

Smithwick, South Dakota

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

**INTRODUCTORY:** The native flowering plants of the Great Plains in large numbers seek those environments which afford sanctuary from the dominance of grass vegetation. The more usual places of abundant blossom include river bluffs and other escarpments, buttes and rocky knolls, gravelly ridges that mark the course of ancient streams, areas of sandhills, expanses of shale, and mere steep slopes.

But as there are flowers in the rich moist meadows of the true prairies and in the cool meadows of the alpine heights, so there are those that maintain foothold in the vast grass lands of the high, dry plains, and by peculiar root adaptation, by burst of growth and bloom in advance of the grasses, or by other strategies manage their life affairs happily.

In these varying habitats common factors that may be noted are relatively lean to very lean and porous soil, quick drainage from the surface and, even more significant, drainage downward through porous subsoil. Much sun, and wind, rapid evaporation, infrequent wetting, and more or less alkalinity are others.

A recommended "scree" for growing the more exacting species in regions of greater rainfall or where water is supplied is composed of equal parts of ordinary garden soil, coarse sand, and fine gravel or rock chips, including some lime. When scree is advised in the following lists this mixture is implied. It is, indeed, an excellent base for all Great Plains plants, to which richer soil, leaf-mold or other humus may be added for certain plants as needed.

And how very many of the Plains natives welcome the friendly ministrations of the gardener's hand! The lifting of the over-burden of competition, amelioration of hampering drought, supplying of those little touches that are the spice of garden well-being. Among appreciated attentions to newly received plants are protection from wilting or burning, also from undue soaking by rain or otherwise.

**SERVICE:** Advice on requirements of any Great Plains plants, to the extent of our information, is free on request.

We will be pleased to attempt to supply or to refer to a source of native plants not here catalogued.

Our prices include prepaid delivery.

### HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Our novelty list of 1941 includes *Agastache anethiodora*, *Arenaria hookeri*, *Aster fendleri*, *Eriogeron nematophyllum*, *Machaeranthera ramosa*, *Oreocarya cana*, *Pentstemons grandiflorus* and *nitidus*, *Phlox andicola* in blue lavender and *Phlox longifolia*, *Opuntia fragilis* with round sections and *Opuntia imbricata*. And you will find many other worthy subjects that will bring rarity and charm to your garden.

**Actinea (Tetraneuris) simplex** Inch-and-a-half Gaillardias of brilliant gold, 4 to 8" high; tufts of narrow silvery leaves, 3". .25c; 3, 65c.

**Agastache anethiodora** - Anise Hyssop. A handsome fragrant plant for the herb garden or border. 4 to 6" spikes of purple-blue continuously from late June; 24 to 36". Good soil. 50c.

**Anemone patens nutt. (Pulsatilla hirsutissima)**. Large six-pointed stars of satiny lavender, blooming ahead of the European Pasque Flower, March-May. Drainage. 35c; 3, 90c; doz. \$3.50.

**Antennaria aprica** Pussy-toes, Ladies' Tobacco. Broad little leaves of silvery olive in inch-high evergreen mats, spreading slowly; pussy-toe flowers at 4". Gray-white, 20c; soft pink, 40c.

**A. campestris** Unusual pistillate form with white ray flowers; leaves rich green, white below. 30c.

**A. microphylla** Tiny leaves of charming pattern, in bluish silver. White furry toes, 8". 35c.

**A. obovata** A rougher textured aprica. 20c.

**Arenaria hookeri** Hooker Sandwort. Dense prickly cushions of vivid green, smothered in late June or July with white clustered blossoms. At its best in very rocky soil in sun. 50c.

**Artemisia frigida** A low tufted feathery, silvery and fragrant Sage. Arching silvery spikes of tiny yellowish bells, August. 25c; 3, 65c.

**Asclepias pumila** An 8" Milkweed of close colony habit. Pretty leaves; abundant upright umbels creamy white in the type; good. Also a very rare light pink. Same price. 25c; 3, 60c.

**Aster fendleri** A most charming introduction, native from Nebraska south. Our personally chosen form, 10" or possibly taller, branches much and covers itself in September with dainty cupped blossoms of lilac blue. 60c.

**A. kumleini** Our Prairie Gem Blue selection challenges comparison with any Aster of its color and stature. A sheet of blue and gold, Sept. 12". 40c.

**A. kumleini** Selected forms in rose pink and lacy-rayed silver blue. 25c; 3, 60c; doz. \$2.00.

**A. meritus** Rare dwarf with broad flat-topped corymb effect and special merit of flowering in July. Much admired pinkish violet; 8 to 12". 35c.

**A. ptarmicoides (Unamia alba)** Cream centered and white rayed beauty, beginning, July, lasting for weeks. 12" or more. 30c; 3, 75c.

Golden Aster: see **Chrysopsis** and **Sideranthus**.

Tansy Aster: **Machaeranthera**.

**Astragalus goniatus** A lovely traveler, met with glad surprise. Festive bonnets of bright lavender touched with purple, June-August; 4 to 8". (Confine if necessary.) 40c; doz. \$3.50.

Other **Astragalus** family members in **Homalobus**, **Orophaca** and **Oxytropis**.

**Campanula petiolata** Western Harebell. Flaring bells, lavender to blue purple, freely produced, June-September; 8 to 12". 30c; 3, 85c.

**Cerastium strictum** Low spreading mat of rich green, multidudinous white flowers, May-July, to 8". Like a larger **C. arvense**. 25c.

**Chrysopsis villosa** Golden Aster. Massed beauty in richest tone, August, September; 12". Best effect, shear to 4" in June. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Clematis (Viorna) scotti** Leatherflower. Glaucous foliage to 8 or 10", intriguing blue to purple nodding urns, May, June; silky seed plumes. Moderately rich soil, sun or light shade. 50c; 3, \$1.25.

**C. (Atragene) tenuiloba** Fairies' Bower. Rare, distinct, charming and permanent in the affections are these large half-open nodding, airy, purple blossoms, above fine cut foliage, May, June; 8 to 10". Spreads slowly. Rich soil, light shade. 80c.

**Dalea (Parosela) enneandra** Slender swaying racemes, white and silver, from an arching stem 24" or more tall. Flower effect, June-Aug. 30c.

**Delphineum bicolor** Flowers of deep purple-blue velvet, May, June; branching 12" plant. Dormant in summer. Rich soil. 30c; 3, 75c; doz. \$2.50.

**Dodecatheon pauciflorum** Shooting Star. Lovely and conspicuous in the Black Hills in May and June, in hot limestone crevices or cool humus it gives a real show of bright rose and gold; 4 to 10". Dormant by mid-summer. 40c; doz. \$3.50.

**Echinacea angustifolia** Pink Cone Flower. Broad rosy rays centered about glossy chocolate drops. Strikingly different and beautiful. Foliage 5", flowers 10 to 14"; 30c; 3, 75c; doz. \$2.50.

**Erigeron caespitosus** Little Daisies of purest white, branching 8 to 10" stems; July. 30c.

**E. canus** White to lavender Daisies, 8 to 10", with frosted foliage; June. 30c.

**E. commixtus** The cover photograph of *E. flagellaris* would pass for this also, since it does not show the leaves. This has green leaves, triple lobed at the tip; flowers a trifle smaller. It is, let us say, better behaved, admirable. 40c.

**E. flagellaris** Whiplash Daisy. See cover. 25c.

**E. glabellus** Flowers lavender to white, several to the stem, 8 to 12". Foliage evergreen. 30c.

**E. nematophyllum** Another *Erigeron*! Yes, and a beauty. Forms an 8" or wider tuffet of short linear leaves. Blossoms like *E. compositus* but larger and whiter; height 2 to 5"; May, June. 50c.

**Erigonium flavum** Beautiful all-season mats of green velvet leaves, white below, to perhaps a foot wide; large fuzzy umbels of soft yellow, June; to 12". Best in scree. 50c; 3, \$1.25.

**Eurotia lanata** Winter Fat, White Sage. Interesting low plant of light gray tone. 35c.

**Gutierrezia sarothrae** Indian Broom plant. Hemispheres of vivid green, 10 to 12" high, turn to glowing gold with September blossoming. 35c.

**Hedeoma campanula** A perennial Pennyroyal. Trim 8" rounded bushlets flushed with pink-lavender Mint blossoms, June on. Wonderful fragrance. Makes a delicious tea. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Homalobus caespitosus** An irresistible cushion plant, attaining a spread of 8", prickly, a bit frosty, hidden in May with purple or violet little Pea blossoms with white-tipped wings. Scree required. 30c; 3, 80c.

**Lathyrus incanus** Sand Pea. Three-quarter inch blossoms in showy clusters, rose in the banner, pale pink to white in the wings, May; 4 to 10". Stems and leaves glaucous, softly hairy.

**L. Ornatus** is almost the same but not hairy, and is often brighter flowered. These are spreaders worth controlling. Either, 30c; 3, 75c; doz. \$2.00.

**Lesquerella spatulata** Bladder-pod. Dainty Crucifer, festive in brightest yellow, May-July. Numerous stems to 4 or 5", spreading to 10", from low gray-green rosettes. Limy scree. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Leucocrinum montanum** Sand Lily. Bountiful succession of stemless little Lilies, waxy white, gold-stamened, fragrant, from a tuft of grassy leaves; April, May. Cover roots 2". 35c; doz. \$3.00.

**Liatris ligulistylis** Blazing Star. Largest flower heads, an inch wide and relatively few, a lovely clear purple; July; 18" or more. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**L. punctata** Dwarf Liatris. Fluffy dense spikes of fine transparent purple, August. Foliage low, stems 8 to 14" in dry lean soil. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Lithophragma parviflora** Woodland Star. Several three-fourth inch, slashed stars of purest white toping a slender raceme, beginning at 4" in May, attaining 12". A treasure for light shade or sun, rich soil. Summer dormant. Tiny tubers, 3, 35c.

**Lithospermum linearifolium** Puccoon. Glowing soft yellow ruffled trumpets, half-inch wide, May; 6 to 12". Free blooming, charming. 30c; 3, 70c.

**Machaeranthera ramosa** Tansy Aster. Rather large plant for wonderful massed blue effect, September, October; 10 to 24". Usually biennial. 50c.

**Malvastrum (Sphaeralcea) coccineum** Flame Mallow. Little Hollyhocks of startling salmon-scarlet in short spires; 10"; long season. Deeply cut leaves of gray green. Best in scree. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Mertensia lanceolata** Very fine Bluebell for the sunny rock garden or border. Starting at 3" in April, blooms with utmost freedom to late June; ultimate height, 10". 35c; 3, 85c.

**Nothocalais cuspidata** Rich textured golden, Chicory type flowers, 2" wide, April, May; from ground tuft of long wavy, white margined leaves. Frequent companion of Leucocrinum. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Oenothera (Pachylophus) caespitosa** Gumbo Lily or Cowboy Lily. Great snowy, fragrant Evening Primroses upon the ground, in a patch of glossy lanceolate leaves. Day blooming, May to August. Recommended soil mixture. True type, 25c; 3, 65c.

**Oe. (Galpinsia) lavandulaefolia** Rich yellow crinkly, upright blossoms, June to frost. Open all day. Tiny grayish leaves, stems nearly prostrate. Of perfect bearing in any company. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Oe. (Meriolix) serrulata** Somewhat shrubby, bushy plant, to 10" or so. Wonderful display of inch-wide gems of bright yellow. Open all day, May to August. 30c; 3, 75c. (Seeds, large flowered form, pkt. 50c.)

**Oreocarya (Cryptantha) cana** "Birthday Candle." Many short plump columns of jewel-like white Forget-me-nots, with glinting gold eyes, upon a silvery, low green "cake." Spread to 10", height, 5 to 7"; June. An introduction of which we are proud. Limey scree indicated. Vigorous plants, grow-or-money-back guarantee, \$1.00; 3, \$2.00.

**O. glomerata** Prairie Candle. Large white Forget-me-nots, 10 to 14" spikes, six weeks, mainly June. Short-lived, clip back after blooming. Scree. 20c.

**Orophaca caespitosa** Tufted Milk-vetch. Low cushion of silvery tri-parted leaves, with a snow of stemless blossoms; astonishing beauty; April-May. Scree, with gravel surface. 30c; 3, 75c.

**O. tridactyla** Red Orophaca. Delightful lavender-rose flowerlets on similar elfin cushion; May. Same culture. Very rare, 50c each; 3, \$1.20.

**Oxytropis lamberti** Loco. Silvery pinnate leaves at the ground, spectacular plumes of rich toned Pea blossoms, purple-red to blue, light to dark; to 12"; June. Scree or sand. 30c; doz. \$2.50.

Parosela, see **Dalea**.

**Pentstemon albidus** Really beautiful spires of large white trumpets, to 14"; May, June. 20c.

Scree is happy hunting ground for all the large flowered Plains Pentstemons. Lean sand, not pure sand, is equally agreeable to *angustifolius*, *nitidus* and *grandiflorus*.

**P. angustifolius** A wonderful harmony in brilliant azure and glaucous green, June; 12". 25c; 3, 65c.

**P. crandallii** Novel 2" evergreen mat-former with a veil of upturned bells of blue in June. From the Rockies but quite at home here. 50c; 3, \$1.35.

**P. eriantherus** Showy, warm lavender, with prominent tongues of gold, and very lovely. June, 8 to 12". Taste for lime and a little sticky clay. 25c.

**P. glaber** A fine dark blue often touched with purple; June, July, and again if cut back. 18" or more. Very adaptable. 30c; 3, 70c.

**P. gracilis** A light and graceful smaller flowered one, amethyst in tone. 12"; June, July. 30c.

**P. grandiflorus** The stately "Shell-leaf." Cool lavender and gray green; 30"; June. 35c; 3, 90c.

**P. nitidus** Deeper blue, lower, three weeks earlier than *angustifolius*. An indispensable. 30c.

**Petalostemon purpureus** Prairie Clover. Circlets of orange-dotted purple-red about deep green cones, June, July; fragrant. 15". Scree or sand. 35c.

**P. villosus** Velvet Prairie Clover. Plump cones of soft silvery rose and silvery green, July-Sept. Very decorative plant. Same culture. 40c.

**Phlox alyssifolia** Sheets of soft lavender pink to bright pink, delightfully fragrant, May, June. Height 3 to 5". Foliage of distinct value, white edged. Spreading slowly. 30c; 3, 80c.

These Plains Phloxes and *P. longifolia* which comes here and there onto the mountain border of the Plains, are well at home in scree with or without a little richness. They will come to you with strong young roots. Give half shade first summer.

**P. andicola** The large white blossomed needle-leaved Phlox of the high prairies; 4". Long season, April through June. 20c; doz. \$2.00.

Same, in blue lavender; new, 35c.

Extra large white, choicest selection; 50c.

**P. hoodi** Mossy green mats snowed over with lovely little blossoms, April or May; 2". Slow spreading, finally making wide mats. 30c; doz. \$2.50.

**P. longifolia** Handsome upright species, to 6"; cluster-flowered, in full sun producing wide masses of rich mauve pink. Leaves dark green. 50c.

**Potentilla divisa** Astonishing beauty in sunlit yellow on a tuft of silver, deep-notched leaves, early May. Height 3", spread 10". 50c; 3, \$1.35.

**Senecio purshianus** A plant of nice habit, in June displaying its airy light gold blossoms, 8 or 9" up from a permanently gray leaf mass. 35c; 3, 80c.

**Sideranthus spinulosus** Massed light golden inch-wide Asters, September, October. Dense low type, 6"; fine textured frosty foliage. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Solidago mollis** Most attractive 5 to 12" Goldenrod. Roundish heads, September. Slow traveler. 25c.

**S. trinervata** One of the loveliest with plump tapering spikes, to 16". Non-traveler. 35c.

**Talinum parviflorum** Little Sunbright. Tuft of 2" succulent leaves, airy rosy blossoms to 6 or 7", every summer afternoon. Tiny roots, 3, 35c.

**Thermopsis rhombifolia** Dwarf Golden Pea. Broad packed racemes of glowing yellow, May. Unusual and beautiful. Forms colonies. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Townsendia exscapa** Easter Daisy. One of the "incredibles!" Glowing pink-white, wide Daisies on a 2" high tuffet of narrow silvery evergreen leaves; April, May. Dryest, leanest scree. 35c; 3, 85c.

**T. sericea** A smiling and independent little sister, white or delicate pink, early April; leaves ashy green. Limy scree. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Tradescantia bracteata** Rainbow Spiderwort. Amazing variety of colors, baby-blue, purple, bright rose and intermediates. Begins flowering at 4" in June, long season, to 10". 20c; doz. mixed, \$2.00.

New large Appleblossom pink, 50c each.

**T. occidentalis** Sand Spiderwort. Shades of blue; glaucous foliage, 12"; excellent. Long season. 20c.

**Verbena bipinnatifida** Popular bright lilac blue, in marvelous all season production. Low, trailing. Hardy, but avoid winter wet at crowns. Flowers by late June from seed. Pkt. 15c. Plants 30c; 3, 75c.

**Viola adunca** A happy little deep blue Violet for part shade. Often blossoms in autumn. 25c; 3, 60c.

**V. nephrophylla** Lovely big blue that likes much moisture through flowering time. 35c; 3, 85c.

**V. nuttalli** Brilliant golden Violet of the dry open plains. Heavy producer, April through May. Low, 3 to 7"; 30c; 3, 50c; doz. \$1.80.

**V. rugulosa** White with violet pencilings; 6 to 12". Slow spreading groundcover, part shade. 30c; 3, 75c.

**V. vallicola** Very like nuttalli but for rich soil, sun or shade. 30c; 3, 75c.

### THE HARDEST CACTI

Scree or other dry rocky footing is a requisite of the "ball" species, and agreeable to all. With assured drainage some humus may be used. A very successful grower uses 1 part heavy dark loam to 9 parts bank gravel for all sorts, and secures lavish bloom.

**Coryphantha (Mamillaria) vivipara** Ball, to 3" or more; showy carmine flowers, June. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Echinocereus viridiflorus** Ball to cylindric, 2", rarely 4". Glossy yellow blossoms, bright colored spines. Season, June. 25c; 3, 60c.

**Neobesseyea (Mamillaria) missouriensis** Ball, rarely attaining 2". Flowers glossy, yellow to pale orange, May. Fruits crimson. 35c; 3, 80c.

**Opuntia fragilis** Brittle Cactus, a pygmy Prickly Pear. Surprisingly large yellow flowers, centered red, June. Free blooming strain. 25c.

Rare form with circular sections, pleasing compact habit, and free blooming. Rooted cuttings, 50c.

**O. imbricata (arborescens)** Tree Cactus. An unfailing attraction with flowers of purple-carmine. Rooted cuttings, 25c; a few larger plants at 50c.

**O. polyacantha** Many-spined Prickly Pear. 4" or larger sections; 4" silken yellow blooms. 25c.

**O. rhodantha** Like polyacantha but flowers are a gorgeous carmine-rose; June. Rooted cuttings, 35c.

**O. humifusa** Sections often 5 to 6", spines fewer; largest of silken yellow flowers, red filaments; late June. Ripe "pears" dark red, edible. 25c.

#### BULBS FOR FALL PLANTING

**Allium cernuum** Nodding Onion. Nodding umbels of light shell pink, July; 16". 3, 25c; doz. 65c.

**A. textile** Broad umbels of green-ribbed white stars, at 8"; May. Dormant in summer. Doz. 35c.

**Calochortus apiculatus** A Mariposa Tulip. Softly hairy blossoms of great charm, in cream-white and pale yellow; 8"; June. Cultural advice for all bulbs on request. 3, 30c; doz. 90c.

**C. gunnisoni** Gunnison Mariposa. Very lovely white chalice with clusters of greenish hairs; 16"; July. Few long grassy leaves. Doz. \$1.00; 100, \$7.50.

**C. macrocarpus** Sagebrush Mariposa. Wonderful long-petaled flowers of lilac, yellow-patched, sometimes purple-marked; 18"; July. Doz. \$1.20.

**C. nuttalli** Sego Lily. Brilliant white with gold and maroon markings; 12"; June. Slender glaucous leaves. Doz. 85c; 100, \$6.50.

**Fritillaria atropurpurea** Bronze Fritillary. Nearly 2", open, half-nodding, "slightly fantastic" flowers, mottled purple on yellowish ground; May. 8 to 12"; dark glaucous foliage. 20c; doz. \$1.50.

**Zygadenus gramineus** False Camas. Massed creamy stars in a haze of golden stamens. Erect spikes, 8 to 16", June. Grassy leaves. 3, 20c; doz. 60c.

**FOR GARDENS IN HALF SHADE** and rich or moderately rich soil, but not "wet feet," are: Agastache anethiodora, Allium cernuum, Anemone patens, Antennarias aprica, campestris and microphylla, Aster meritus and ptarmicoides, Campanula petiolata, Cerastium strictum, Clematis tenuiloba, Delphineum bicolor, Dodecatheon pauciflorum, Erigeron commixtus, Fritillaria atropurpurea, Liatris ligulistylis, Lithophragma parviflora, Pentstemon gracilis, Phloxes alyssifolia and hoodii, and, excepting nuttalli, all the Violets. Much sun, however, with reasonable moisture, is equally acceptable to these shade tolerant kinds.